

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01531 300011Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00
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AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
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UNCLAS OTTAWA 01531

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: CANADA FORMALIZES BEEF AND VEAL IMPORT CONTROLS

1. EXTAFF HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH AN ADVANCE COPY OF A PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE AGRICULTURE MINISTER EUGENE WHELAN AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY TRADE AND COMMERCE JACK HORNER TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP AN ONGOING PROCEDURE TO CONTROL IMPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL. BEGIN INNERQUOTE THERE HAS BEEN A SURPLUS OF BEEF AND VEAL ON THE WORLD MARKET SINCE 1974. IN THE FALL OF 1976, THE UNITED STATES INVOKED QUOTAS UNDER ITS MEAT IMPORT LAW AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SET QUOTAS ON BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS. NOW WE ARE FORMALLY SETTING OUT THE PROCEDURE WE WILL USE IN FUTURE TO PREVENT DISRUPTIONS IN OUR DOMESTIC MARKET. END INNERQUOTE. MR. HORNER SAID. THE QUOTAS WILL BE SET UNDER THE EXPORT AND IMPORT PERMITS ACT IN RELATION TO THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS BETWEEN 1971 AND 1975, ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN DOMESTIC BEEF CONSUMPTION SINCE THIS BASE PERIOD. BEGIN INNERQUOTE THE TRADE IN LIVE
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CATTLE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THESE IMPORT CONTROLS. FURTHERMORE THE CANADIAN IMPORT CONTROLS COMPLEMENT THE U.S. MEAT IMPORT LAW AND SHOULD HELP TO PRESERVE THE NORMAL BEEF AND CATTLE TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE U.S. END INNERQUOTE. MR. WHELAN SAID. BEGIN INNERQUOTE WE WILL USE THIS PROCEDURE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND EVALUATE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IF, AT ANY TIME, IT IS NOT GIVING

SATISFACTORY PROTECTION TO THE CANADIAN BEEF INDUSTRY, WE
WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CONTROL IMPORTS. END INNER-
QUOTE. UNQUOTE.

2. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WHELAN HAD PROMISED TO INTRO-
DUCE LEGISLATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE U.S. MEAT IMPORT
LAW FOLLOWING WINTER LONG EXAMINATION OF THE BEEF INDUSTRY
BY THE CANADIAN SENATE. THIS PRESS RELEASE SIGNALS THE
FAILURE OF MR. WHELAN TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT CABINET SUPPORT
TO INTRODUCE A DRAFT BILL.

3. CANADIAN IMPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL FRESH CHILLED AND
FROZEN FOR 1978, ESTABLISHED IN EARLY JANUARY WILL BE
LIMITED TO 146,920 THOUSAND POUNDS OF WHICH: U.S. 25,120;
AUSTRALIA 60,240 AND, NEW ZEALAND 61,560. PLACKE

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